



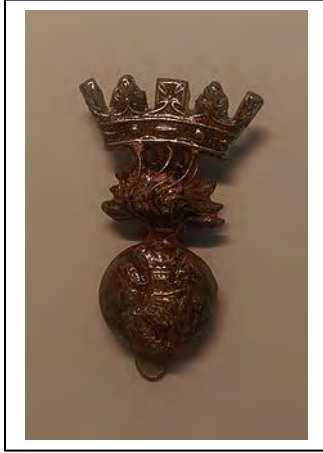
Corporal James Baldwin, Number 6299, of the 2nd Battalion, Princess Victoria's (Royal Irish Fusiliers)*, British Expeditionary Force, has no known last resting-place; his sacrifice is thus commemorated on the stone of the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Panel 42.

****In 1920 the order of the name was reversed – Royal Irish Fusiliers (Princess Victoria's).***

James Baldwin enlisted in the English west-coast port-city of Liverpool. What his occupation had been up to that point seems not to be documented but it is recorded that he spent ten months – from June 6 of 1912 until April 22 of 1913 - in the Los Animas Naval Hospital in Norfolk, Virginia. There he was treated for tuberculosis and pneumonia.

This appears to suggest that James Baldwin was employed with shipping, perhaps with the mercantile marine or – perhaps less likely – with the United States' Navy. This is, of course, conjecture.

(continued)



(Preceding page: *The image of the Princess Victoria's (Royal Irish Fusiliers) cap badge is from the Wikipedia web-site.*)

It was as Private James Baldwin of the 2nd Battalion Princess Victoria's (*Royal Irish Fusiliers*) that he entered into active service in France on February 1, 1915. The Battalion was attached to the 82nd Brigade of the 27th Division which, having landed in the French port-city of Le Havre in December of the previous year, was by that time stationed in an area of the Western Front to the north of the Franco-Belgian frontier and just south of the medieval city of Ypres*.



**At the outset of the war it had been stationed in India.*

(Right above: *The French port-city of Le Havre at or about the time of the Great War – from a vintage post-card*)

In mid-March the 27th Division was involved in the action of Sint-Elooi (*St. Eloi* in French – but not to be confused with the St. Eloi, in France, a community which also figures in the history of many units) where some of the first subterranean mines of the war were detonated by the Germans. The British incurred some five hundred casualties here on March 14-15.



(Right: *German bunkers, today used as auxiliary farm buildings, in the area of Sint-Elooi – photograph from 2014*)

This action was followed by the *Second Battle of Ypres* which officially occurred lasted from April 22 to May 25. But it was not to be until May 8 that the 27th Division was involved, the Germans unleashing an artillery barrage on its front prior to an infantry attack on that day in the area of the Bellewarde Ridge. In places the line was pushed back some two kilometres by the attackers: in other locations the Germans were held.



One source records Corporal Baldwin's 2nd Battalion as being in the area of Sanctuary Wood with the 27th Division in positions astride the Menin Road at the time.

Apparently May 15 was a quiet day – for most.

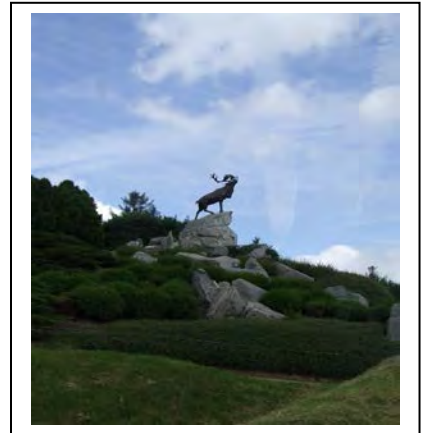
The son of Edward Thomas Baldwin and Alice Baldwin of Pouch Cove, he was also oldest brother to William*, David, George, Mary-Louise, Fanny-Amelia and Selena-Hazel.

(Right: *vestiges of Canadian trenches on private property in Sanctuary Wood – photograph from 2010*)

(continued)

****He is also documented as being brother to Uriah Baldwin (Private, Regimental Number 1846 of the Newfoundland Regiment) who was killed in action on October 9 at the Broembeek in Belgium during Passchendaele. He has no known grave, his sacrifice honoured on the bronze below the Caribou at Beaumont-Hamel. Uriah Baldwin is recorded elsewhere as William Baldwin.***

(Right: The Caribou at Beaumont-Hamel overlooks the old British front line and No-Man's Land. – photograph from 2007)



Corporal Baldwin is reported as having been killed in action on May 15, 1915, during Second Ypres.

He died at thirty-two years of age: date of birth at Pouch Cove, Newfoundland, April 23, 1883.

(Right: The sacrifice of Corporal James Baldwin is honoured on the Pouch Cove War Memorial in the District of St. John's East. – photograph from 2010)



Corporal* James Baldwin was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, as well as to the British War Medal (centre) and to the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal) (right).



****The date of his promotion appears not to be documented.***